



# WALPOLE POWER CHOICE

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is electricity supply?

Electricity service has two parts, delivery and supply. Electricity delivery is the process of bringing electricity to you along wires. Electricity supply is the electricity itself. Eversource is responsible for electricity delivery in Walpole. In addition, Eversource typically chooses the electricity supplier and passes that cost along to customers. This is called Eversource Basic Service.

Within Walpole Power Choice, Eversource will continue to deliver the electricity but will no longer choose the electricity supplier. Instead, Walpole will choose an electricity supplier for Town residents and businesses through a competitive bid process.

### 2. How much money will I save?

It is not possible to predict how much money you will save. Savings will depend on a number of different factors, such as:

- The rates that are included in the responses to the RFP (request for proposals) that Walpole will issue for an electricity supplier
- What type of customer you are (residential vs. non-residential)
- How much electricity you consume

In other communities, average customer savings have ranged between approximately \$20 and \$70 a year.

Savings will appear only on the supply portion of your bill. Delivery charges will be unaffected by the Walpole Power Choice program.

### 3. What will change with this program?

You will see two changes as a result of participating in Walpole Power Choice:

- On the Supplier Services portion of your Eversource electric bill, you will see the program supplier listed instead of Basic Service.
- The rate that you are charged for supplier services will change from the Basic Service rate to the rate that Walpole has negotiated with the selected supplier.

Otherwise, everything else will remain the same. You will continue to receive your bill from Eversource, you will continue to pay Eversource, and you will continue to call Eversource when your power goes out.

If you participate in budget billing or are eligible for any discounts from Eversource, those will be unaffected by your participation in this program.

#### 4. Do I have to participate?

All Eversource Basic Service customers will be automatically enrolled. But you do not have to participate in the program if you do not want to.

After the electricity contract is signed, you will have three ways to opt out before the program begins: 1) You will receive a letter in the mail notifying you of your right to opt out of the program. You may opt out by signing and returning the postcard that accompanies that letter. 2) You may opt out by calling the customer service number for the selected electricity supplier. 3) You may opt out online.

After the program begins, you will have two ways to opt out: 1) You may opt out by calling the customer service number for the selected electricity supplier. 2) You may opt out online.

You may opt out of the program at any time with no penalty or fee.

#### 5. I have signed my own contract with an electricity supplier. Will I be enrolled in the program?

If you have already signed a contract with an electricity supplier, you will not automatically be enrolled in Walpole Power Choice.

If you would like to participate in Walpole Power Choice, we recommend that you first check the terms of your existing electricity supply contract. Many include minimum enrollment periods and early termination fees.

To participate in Walpole Power Choice, you can call the customer service number of the selected electricity supplier.

#### 6. Who do I call when the power goes out?

Eversource will continue to deliver your electricity and maintain the polls and wires. Call Eversource if your power goes out, as always.

#### 7. Will I receive a second bill?

Eversource will continue to bill you for your electricity, and this is the only electricity bill you will receive as a participant in Walpole Power Choice.

#### 8. Will Eversource provide me with a lower quality of service because I participate in this program?

Eversource's quality of service to you will be unaffected by your participation in Walpole Power Choice. The reason is because Eversource does not profit from the supplier services part of your electric bill. They pass the electricity supply charges along to you with no markup. They make their profit from the distribution charges. As a result, they are indifferent to whether they choose your supplier or you choose your supplier.

9. What if Eversource's price falls below the program price?

The program price will be set for a fixed period of time by a contract. Eversource's prices change every six months or less, depending on what kind of customer you are. As a result, it is very likely that for some months, the program price will be higher than the Eversource price. The program goal will be to beat Eversource's pricing on average of the duration of the electricity supply contract.

However, if the Eversource price does fall below the program price, you are free to opt out of the program for no penalty or fee. If you choose to opt out, you will be returned to Eversource Basic Service.

10. How long will the program last?

Until the aggregation is formally discontinued by the Town, it will remain in place. However, the specific electricity supply contract lasts for a set amount of time. The Town will establish a contract with an electricity supplier for a duration of time that provides the best possible value for the town. When that contract is finished, the Town will issue an RFP for a new contract. Existing program participants would continue their enrollment in the program automatically under the new contract. If the Town chooses not to issue another RFP and sign a new electricity supply contract, all program participants will be returned to Eversource basic service.

11. I am currently under Eversource budget billing / eligible for the low-income delivery rate. Will this change?

If you participate in budget billing or are eligible for any discounts from Eversource, those will be unaffected by your participation in Walpole Power Choice.

12. I have solar panels on my property. If I join the program, will I continue to receive net metering credits?

Yes. Net metering will work the same way if you participate in the program. Your net metering credits from your solar panels will continue to appear on your Eversource bill and will continue to be calculated based on Eversource's Basic Service price.

13. Will I be enrolled if I am on Eversource's Do Not Call list?

No. If you have added your name to Eversource's Do Not Call list, your account will not receive any mailings about the program, and your account will not be automatically enrolled. But you may participate if you wish. To participate, you will need to contact the electricity supplier that the Town selects and ask to be enrolled.

14. Is Walpole the only community in Massachusetts creating this kind of program?

No. Municipal electricity aggregation has been building momentum across Massachusetts. Walpole will be joining more than 70 other Massachusetts communities that already have active aggregations, communities such as Salem, Natick, Chelmsford, Swampscott, Greenfield, Westborough, the communities of the Cape, and many others.